

Eloise Martin

Eloise Martin, daughter of Benjamin Peyton Martin and Mamie Lewis was born October 2, 1902 in Cedar Key, Florida and died November 26, 1990 in Delray Beach, Florida. She married Leon Smith Flanagan on August 14, 1926. She and Leon had a son, Leon Martin Flanagan.

Eloise was born in Cedar Key, FL where her mother was born and had grown up. Her father, Benjamin Peyton Martin was a conductor on the narrow gage railroad that ran from Amelia Island, Florida across the state to Cedar Key. Benjamin met Mamie Lewis “at the end of the line” in Cedar Key and they married and lived there until Eloise was 2 years old. In 1904 or 1905 the family moved to Benjamin’s home town, Easley, S.C. for a short period of time and then moved to Greenville, S.C.

Their first home in Greenville was a rental on Main Street at the Reedy River in a building that has become a designated historical building and is now called Falls Cottage. At the present time (2006) Falls Cottage houses a very good restaurant. They lived in other rentals and ultimately purchased a home on Overbrook Road where Eloise’s mother and father lived until their deaths.

Eloise went through school in Greenville and graduated from Greenville High. She had 2 years of Collage at Greenville Woman’s College which was part of Furman University, the female’s campus and the men’s campus being on opposite sides of town.

On August 14, 1930 she married Leon Smith Flanagan who had moved to Greenville from Columbia, S.C. due to his reassignment by his employer, South Carolina State Tax Commission. They bought a small brick home at 1309 East North Street where she continued to live for 25 years after Leon’s death in 1959.

Eloise and Leon had one son, Leon Martin, who was born January 22, 1932, and four grand children.

She was a great cook, especially for the cookies and other goodies she provided for her grandchildren. She enjoyed entertaining her grandchildren although they had to travel from West Palm Beach to spend time with her.

In her declining years, her son moved her to an assisted living facility in Delray Beach, Florida, where she died November 26, 1990. She is buried at Springwood Cemetery, Greenville, S.C. with her husband, Leon Smith Flanagan, her father, Benjamin Peyton Martin (Big Daddy) and her mother Mamie Lewis Martin (Nannie). It is interesting that she began and ended her life in Florida but spent most of it in South Carolina.